

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 007933

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
Qaddafi calls on others to dismantle WMD programs - Milliyet
Missile shield over Washington, New York - Milliyet
Talabani confident Iraq will become a federation - Sabah
Vazir, Hochburg AG companies financing terror - US Treasury
- Aksam
Ankara wants changes to Annan Plan - Hurriyet
Saddam's 'spider hole' to be taken to US - Sabah
FM Gul to meet Turkey's EU envoys - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS
TRNC parliament deadlocked - Cumhuriyet
Rumsfeld's dirty past with Saddam - Radikal
IBDA-C on EU terror list, 'new' PKK still out - Zaman
Iran, Libya accept investigation, Israel's nuclear capacity
still a mystery - Zaman
Terror fear prevails in US - Cumhuriyet
UBP leader Eroglu takes U-turn on Annan Plan - Radikal
UBP's Eroglu: Annan Plan negotiable - Radikal
Israel attacks civilians again: 8 dead - Zaman
Israel raids Palestinian refugee camp, 8 dead - Radikal

BRIEFING

Cyprus: In a change of rhetoric, UBP leader and outgoing TRNC Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said the Annan Plan is negotiable. Turkish dailies were surprised by Eroglu's change in tone. Eroglu, just like Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas, has been a staunch opponent of the Annan Plan. Denktas is expected to designate a new prime minister following the oath-taking ceremony on Friday. The UBP and CTP leaders have given moderate messages of compromise, and DP leader Serdar Denktas vowed to extend unconditional support to a coalition under Eroglu's leadership. Meanwhile, in an effort to contribute to a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem, Turkey's ambassadors to 15 EU countries and the Turkish Ambassador to the United States will meet in Ankara on December 25-26 to discuss Cyprus.

EU list of terror organizations: The EU is expected to announce today a new list of terrorist organizations. Ankara is worried that the PKK/KADEK and its successor, KHK, are not included in the list. The EU reviewed the list on December 15 in light of alleged Al-Qaeda connections to the recent bombings in Istanbul. A recent report released by Europol said that organizations linked to Al-Qaeda regard EU countries as bases for logistical support and a vast pool of potential militant recruits.

74.4 percent of Turks want EU Membership: According to an opinion poll conducted by Bosphorus University, which sampled the views of 2,123 people in 20 provinces, 74.4 percent of Turks want to join the EU. However, 45 percent are concerned that EU membership could reduce Turkey's national sovereignty. Researchers believe the AK Party had been successful in convincing its grassroots to support Turkey's EU aspiration.

Turkey, Greece reach energy agreement: Caspian Sea basin natural gas will be delivered to Europe via Greece, papers

report. Turkey's Energy Minister Guler signed an energy agreement with Greek Oil Minister Tsohatzopoulos on Tuesday. Tsohatzopoulos said the agreement would enable Turkey to

SIPDIS
become established in the European energy market. The EU will need 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas after 2005, according to reports. The Turkish press characterized the deal as the first step for Turkey to establish itself as an 'energy bridge' to Europe.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Libya; Iraq

"The Libya Example"

Sami Kohen commented in mass appeal Milliyet (12/24): "The surprisingly rational and realistic new approach by Qadhafi is comforting news for the whole world. More importantly, it is such a good Christmas gift for Bush and Blair. . The Libyan leader apparently felt strong pressure mounting against his isolation policies, and figured out that he must change his stance on WMD and terrorism in the post-war era. He made a clever move by establishing a dialogue with the Western world instead of defying it. Unlike Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi corrected his mistakes in time. The Libya example also proves that diplomacy is still the best option for resolving international disputes, a method that was not used in the case of Iraq."

"US and Kurds"

Fatih Altayli warned in mass appeal Hurriyet (12/24): "Turkey's reaction against developments in Iraq, particularly with regard to the Iraqi Kurds, is sometimes very paranoid. Sometimes we worry without even considering the realities and seeing the nuances. If you read the headlines in the Turkish papers, Turkey is now worried about the establishment of a federal Kurdistan. The headline-makers are unfortunately taking into account only the statements from the Iraqi Kurds. In reality, it is going to be all Iraqis -- not only the Kurds -- who will determine Iraq's future. . In reality, the Iraqi Kurds are seeking a federal Kurdish state and expect US support in exchange for the support they gave the US during the war. At this point, this is only a hope for the Kurds, because there is no evidence that the US supports the idea. Moreover, the US does not have a clear plan for Iraq yet. Turkey should enhance its bilateral ties with the US and exert its regional influence. It seems that everybody but Turkey realizes that nothing can happen contrary to Turkey's desire."

EDELMAN